



DATE: August 24, 2017

TO: Southern Nevada District Board of Health Members

FROM: Joseph Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc, Chief Health Officer

SUBJECT: Chief Health Officer Report

Arbovirus Update

The Southern Nevada Health District continues to conduct routine surveillance for arboviruses in mosquitoes and arboviral disease in humans. As of August 11, the Health District has tested 85 people for the Zika virus. Two travel-related infections have been reported this year. In 2016, the Health District tested 156 people for the virus, reported 21 travel-related infections, and one non-travel related infection. None of the cases were the result of local mosquito-borne transmission. The Health District has reported one case of West Nile virus this season.

The Health District's Vector Surveillance Program continues to conduct surveillance for the invasive *Aedes* mosquito species. To date, none of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes that have been tested for Zika virus have been positive. The program has completed four fogging operations in the 89032 ZIP code area.

West Nile virus-positive mosquitoes have been identified in eight ZIP codes, St. Louis Encephalitis-positive mosquitoes identified in one ZIP code, and Western Equine Encephalitis-positive mosquitoes in one ZIP code in Clark County. The Health District continues to urge residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites, eliminate standing water and breeding sources, and report all mosquito activity to the Vector Surveillance Program at (702) 759-1633.

Suicide Prevention

In preparation of National Suicide Prevention Week (September 10-16, 2017) and World Suicide Prevention Day, September 10, the Health District provided information to health care providers to remind them of the important role they play in identifying patients who may be having suicidal thoughts or planning to harm themselves. While mental health care professionals play key roles in screening patients, primary care physicians and their staff are often the only points of contact for a patient within the health care system. Ensuring that primary care physicians and their staff receive training and are aware of available resources should be a priority for all health professionals. It is important to emphasize a primary prevention approach that addresses factors that put people at risk for engaging in suicidal behavior.

In 2016, the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) reported that 615 residents committed suicide. Of those, 395 were Clark County residents. These are too many lives lost and too many families and communities impacted. While there are no easy answers and not one prescribed approach, as health care providers and public health practitioners we must ensure we have the resources in place to meet our patients' needs. More information and additional resources are available on the DPBH Office of Suicide Prevention website at <http://suicideprevention.nv.gov/>.

Accreditation Update

The Southern Nevada Health District continues to work to gain accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board. The first steps toward accreditation have been completed with the development of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to address key issues and develop initiatives to improve the health and well-being of the community. The CHIP's three priority areas are access to care, chronic disease, and policy and funding. Since the introduction of both the CHA and the CHIP, there have been several new projects and initiatives, some of which were announced publicly once they were put into place.

Priority Group Updates:

Access to Health Care: This workgroup addresses the limited access to care that members of the community might be experiencing and has developed tools to address the issue.

- The Nurse Call Line has been activated and now connects non-emergency 9-1-1 callers with a nurse who can offer assessments. This frees up time that can be spent on emergency responses and assists individuals who have no medical home to access care.
- Mobile Health Collaborative is an initiative that links clients with a cross section of public services. The Collaborative held its first event in April and assisted 156 families. The next event is scheduled for October 20 at Whitney Recreation Center. The Collaborative includes 50 community partners.

Chronic Disease: The Chronic Disease workgroup has identified the need to increase physical activity and reduce tobacco use as key pieces of this portion of the CHIP. The activities include initiatives introduced by the Office of Chronic Disease and Prevention as well as its stakeholders and partners.

- The Regional Transportation Commission adopted its Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The plan was developed over an 18-month period with significant public input. The plan includes recommendations to expand bike networks and supports programs and policies to support biking and walking in Southern Nevada.
- The City of North Las Vegas adopted a comprehensive Complete Streets Policy that includes 10 elements recommended by the National Complete Streets Coalition. Complete Streets are roadways that are designed to be safe for all users including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.
- The Healthy Vending initiative is a program to increase access to healthy foods and beverages in vending locations. Program staff worked to develop and adopt a Nutrition Standards Policy for the Nevada Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation (DETR) Business Enterprise Program (BEN), including the Health District's own Aroma Café. DETR is adopting the policy in the 28 cafes and snack bars, and the more than 900 vending machines statewide operated as part of the BEN program. Implementation will begin later this year.

- To reduce tobacco use in the community, a brief tobacco use intervention was developed to offer health care providers a tool to identify current tobacco users and refer them to cessation resources. To date, more than 15,000 health care providers in Clark County have been trained on how to deliver a brief tobacco use intervention to their patients.

Community Meetings

Week of July 24

- Met with Dennis Small and Dominic Pulle, Information Technology Generalists with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), to discuss what local health districts deal with on an information technology basis.
- Met with Dr. Craig Thomas, CDC, Director, Division of Public Health Performance Improvement, to discuss the funding decision-making guidance draft concept paper – Public Health Finance Think Tank/STLT subcommittee meeting.
- Participated in the Nevada Association of Local Health Officers (NALHO) meeting.
- Participated in the Big Cities Health Coalition Safe Consumption Sites Work Group Call meeting.
- Participated in Nevada Public Health Foundation Board of Director’s meeting.
- Met with Pat Skorkowsky and Kim Wooden from the Clark County School District on issues related to health and tuberculosis in the school district.
- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Institute meeting.
- Met with Barbara Cassens from the Food and Drug Administration about future collaboration efforts.

Week of July 17

- Met with Cody Phinney, Administrator, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health and Dr. Antonina Capurro, Nevada State Dental Health Officer, regarding issues and collaborations related to Southern Nevada Health District.
- Presented at the Nye County Commissioners meeting.
- Participated in Clark County Medical Society Public Health Commission meeting.
- Met with Dr. Serge Alexanian, Director, Special Operations, UCLA Health, regarding telepathology.
- Met with Marcy Henson, Director, Air Quality Management, regarding issues related to Southern Nevada Health District.

Week of July 10

- Attended the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and Big Cities Health Coalition Conference in Pittsburgh, PA.

Week of July 3

- Participated in the Nevada Public Health Institute meeting.
- Provided media interviews as needed.
- Participated in the Health Officers Association of California Board meeting and Legislative Committee meeting.
- Participated in Nevada Health Authority conference call.
- Met with Todd Sklamberg, Chief Executive Officer, Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center, regarding trauma needs.